

His MAJESTIES Most Gracious

# LETTER

TO THE

Parliament of Scotland.

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WILLIAM R

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

**W**E have ever since Our coming to the Crown, of that Our ancient Kingdom, been firmly Resolved to go to it, and to Hold a Parliament in Person, that Hearing in Our own Presence all that concerns your Happiness and Prosperity, fully Reasoned upon, We might be the more able to Judge of the Laws that are to be Made, and of the Measures to be taken by Us in the Administration. But hitherto, the Necessities of Our Affairs, either of Our Presence Abroad, during the time of Action, or of Our Presence in this Kingdom during the Session of Our Parliament here, have hinder'd Us from being amongst you; However We persist still in the same Resolutions, and will not give over, hoping to find a seasonable Opportunity for pursuing them, since We take them to be so necessary for the full Settlement of that Our ancient Kingdom. But in the mean while, lest the Affairs of Our People should suffer Prejudice by delaying your Meeting any longer, We have thought fit to Call you together, though in Our Absence from Britain, such is Our intire Confidence in your Affection to Us and Our Government, of which We have had sufficient Proof in the former Sessions. We have therefore Nominated and Appointed to be Our Commissioner, Our Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Cousin William Duke of Hamilton, the President of Our Council, whose Abilities and Experience in the discharge of such a Trust are well known to you, and of which We have had good reason to be satisfied, as well as of his Faithfulness and Zeal for Our Service, and the good of the Kingdom. Him we have fully Instructed in all things that seem to Us necessary to be done in this Juncture, for the support of the Government, and the safety of Our People, Reserving what is omitted, and which admits of delay, to Our Own Presence amongst you. We doubt not but that you will heartily concur with Our Commissioner, in the pursuance of his Instructions, for securing the Nation against the Designs of bad Men at Home, and of Enemies from Abroad. And in whatever else he shall propose to you in Our Name, for the common Interest of Us and Our People. In order to this, We do in a particular manner, recommend to you, Moderation and Unanimity, that by your Example, as well as by the Authority of Laws, Factions and Animosities may be Supprest. And since Church-Matters are in a great measure the subject of Contention, We doubt not of your Care to find out proper and healing Remedies for the Disorders that have sprung from them. We do also recommend to you Dispatch, and that you will imploy the time which you can reasonably expect to sit, in doing the things that are most necessary, and in shunning such Matters of Debate as will require the Consulting of Us, since the distance We shall be at, will not allow time for doing it. Thus not doubting, but that by your Diligence and Calmness in your Proceedings, you'll Evidence to the World your Zeal and Union in all that concerns Us and Our Government, and so conclude



conclude this a Happy Session. We bid you heartily farewell. Given at our Court  
Kensington, the three and twentieth day of March 1693. And of Our Reign the Fifth  
Year.

By His Majesties Command,  
J. Johnston.

Directed thus,  
To the Lords Temporal, and the Commissioners  
of Shires and Burghs, Assembled in Parliament  
of Our Antient Kingdom of Scotland.

## The SPEECH of William Duke of Hamilton, His Majesties High Commissioner, to the Parliament of Scotland.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

**Y**OU have heard His Majesties Letter, wherein He expresses a great deal of Goodness for Us, and particularly that He allows your Meeting in Parliament at this time, does show His intire Confidence in your Affection to Him and His Government, now Established in Church and State, which His Majesty has Entrusted me to assure you, He is firmly Resolved to support.

I think I need not Enlarge much to remember you of the Dangers and Fears you were in about a year ago of an Invasion, and the Attempts of Enemies at Home, I am sure there was then some that wished well to this Government, but was sufficiently convinced of the bad Posture we were in for our Defence, and would have been glad of this Opportunity, to have put our selves in a better Condition against the worst Events.

So, my Lords and Gentlemen, Let us in the First Place Return His Majesty our Heartly Thanks for Granting us this Session of Parliament, and let us lay aside all Heats and Animosities, and every thing else that may Obstruct our Answering His Majesties Expectations, whereby you will not only let the World see the Errors of those that were against your Meeting, but also disappoint your Enemies that would render your Endeavours unsuccessful. And since you cannot expect this to be a long Session of Parliament, His Majesty recommending to you Dispatch: Therefore, my Lords and Gentlemen, I beseech you begin with these things that are most necessary for the King's Service, and your own Security, which I Judge to be the giving of Supplies of Money, and the putting of the Kingdom in a Posture of Defence.

The Chancellor will propose to you the first Methods of your Proceedings.

## The SPEECH of the Earl of Tweeddale, Lord High Chan- cellor to the Parliament of Scotland.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

**T**HE Kings Majesty hath made appear His Care of the Welfare, Happiness, and Security of this Kingdom, by Calling You together, when Himself is so necessarily absent beyond Sea, that you may provide for your own Safety and Prosperity. And hath fully Instructed His Commissioner to Concur with you in whatsoever may Contribute thereto.

I shall therefore in all Humility, and with Submission, put you in mind, That avoiding all Animosities and Misunderstandings, you may apply your Selves with Unanimity and Cheerfulness to your Work and Business, which I take to be in the first Place,

To put the Kingdom in a Posture of Defence against Foreign Invasion, and of Security against Intestine Commotion.

Then by making of such good Laws, as may tend both to the Settling of Peace and Unity in the Church, and to the Strengthening the Authority of the Government, and for Recovery and Raising the Trade of the Nation, so much Decayed, even to Ruine almost, and making it to Flourish again.

As to the Concerns of the Church, a sober and quiet Temper of Mind, full of Charity and Humility is necessary.

And for your Safety and Security, a competent Additional Force to what you have, with a suitable Fund to maintain them, and if it shall be thought fit, to set up a Country Militia again, Methods must be thought of for Training of them with less Trouble and Expence than hath been formerly.

And for Recovery of Trade, and Support thereof in Time of War, it will be Worthy of your most Deliberat and Serious Consultations, to fall upon the readiest Means for Effectuating the same, as how some Ships of War of competent Force, to Defend our Coast from Privateers, and to Convey our Merchant Ships, may be provided now, and more built hereafter, which may not only serve for that use in the time of War, but be employed for Trade in the time of Peace.

If you set about these Things Vigorously and Cordially, His Majesty will put a just Value upon your Actings, as a Grateful Acknowledgment of what He hath done for us, and fiteable Return to the Care He hath of us, and by the blessing of God, this Parliament will prove a healing and happy Parliament.